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Application No. 10/522,548  
Amendment dated March 1, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of November 1, 2006

Docket No.: 5417-0103PUS1

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-52 are now present in this application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed with the application on January 27, 2005. **Notification of receipt of the IDS and consideration of the documents cited therein are respectfully requested.** It is noted that the cited Japanese document from this IDS already has been considered by the Examiner, but no indication of consideration of US Patent 5,227,717 has been given. Again, notification of receipt and consideration of the January 27, 2005 IDS are requested.

Claim 44 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Sakata's first embodiment, US Patent 7,119,531 in view of Sakata's fifth embodiment. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The patent to Sakata was filed on August 4, 2004 and issued on October 10, 2006. The filing date of the present application, however, is July 30, 2002. Thus, this Sakata document simply does not qualify as prior art against the present application. Accordingly, the 35 USC 103 rejection should now be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 30-43 to be allowance and claims 45-52 to be allowable if the rejection of claim 44 were overcome. Since this should now be the situation, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should be in condition for allowance. It is also again requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement.

In view of the above remarks, the pending application should be in condition for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of prior art and is not being utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone

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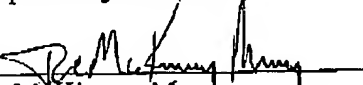
number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 1, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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